

Claims 1 - 3 (Cancelled)

4. (Original) A method using an aqueous effluent comprising the steps of:

collecting water contaminated with the salts of Na, Ca, Mg, Cl, SO₄, or CO₃;

processing the contaminated water to produce a first effluent of clean water and a second effluent of waste water;

analyzing the clean water to determine if its sodium content is too high for potable use; and

using the clean water within a cooling tower to dissipate heat if it has been determined that the clean water's sodium content is too high for potable use.

5. (Original) The method of using an aqueous effluent of Claim 4 wherein the step of processing the contaminated water includes the step of water softening.

6. (Original) The method of using an aqueous effluent of Claim 5 wherein the step of processing the contaminated water is by ion-exchange, precipitation, membrane softening or electrolysis.

Claims 7 - 14 (Cancelled)